



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

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DRAFT MINUTES

Standing Committee on Transportation Meeting

Location: Virtual via Zoom and 1010 Richards Street, Room 118

Date: May 18, 2026

Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Gerald Ohta, Judy Paik, Teri Spinola-Campbell, Charlotte Townsend, Board Members; Scott Castor, Bryan Mick, Kristine Pagano, Mylynne Simon, Staff

PUBLIC

PARTICIPANTS: Leelynn Brady, Donald Sakamoto

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Keri Lee and Carie Sarver

- I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- II. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.
- III. Chairperson Violet Horvath reported no written public testimony was submitted.
- IV. The Committee approved the January 23 2026 meeting minutes as circulated (M/S/P Townsend/Ohta).
- V. Unfinished Business
 - A. Hawaii County Public Transit Service

Staff reported that the State Legislature had adopted [House Concurrent Resolution 154](#) – Requesting the County of Hawaii to Expand the Hele-On Shared Ride Program to Serve the Entire Island of Hawai'i, Including Rural and Underserved Areas such as West Hawaii, North Kohala, South Kohala, Ka'u, and Puna. This aligns with prior discussions of the Committee. The Committee had also discussed inviting the County of Hawaii Transit Program Manager to conduct a presentation. Staff suggested that the Committee members draft questions to provide to the County of Hawaii in advance.

Committee member Charlotte Townsend moved that “The Committee extend an invitation to Hawaii County to do a short presentation to the full Board on the current services and any projections for the future.”

The Committee approved the motion (M/S/P Townsend/Spinola-Campbell).

Testimony: Donald Sakamoto commented he is aware of concerns regarding the types of vehicles used in Hawaii County, noting rural and urban areas have different needs. He is a strong advocate for low floor vehicles, as lifts can be dangerous to use.

B. Concerns with Honolulu's rail construction impact on pedestrian walkways along Dillingham Boulevard

Staff explained that this issue recently received significant attention from the media, advocates, and government officials, after a blind resident raised concerns. Despite this, unsafe and non-compliant sidewalk conditions persist. Committee member Charlotte Townsend provided background on the issue and noted that the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) has stated it lost the ADA plans originally drafted to help mitigate construction impacts. She added that the Hawaii Disability Rights Center may be representing the complainant. DCAB is in the process of hiring a full time ADA Coordinator, who would be well-positioned ideally situated to initiate a formal interaction with HART and ensure new ADA plans are drafted as construction progresses toward downtown Honolulu.

Testimony: Donald Sakamoto commented that the person who first raised this issue has contacted various people and entities but often found HART and its contractors non-responsive. She is now advocating for the matter to be on the next HART Board of Directors meeting agenda.

C. Update on City Charter Commission and Various Proposals to Relating to the City and County of Honolulu's Duties to build and maintain public transportation systems and transportation Infrastructure. [Report of the Permitted Interaction Group on Operations and Public Protection.](#)

Staff reported that the City and County of Honolulu's Charter Commission declined to move forward with any of the proposals relating to sidewalks, which would have made creating and maintaining them a core function of the City. The Commission stated that the Mayor and Council already have authority to address this through the budget process. Staff noted that the Mayor and Council have limited resources and will naturally prioritize items required under the Charter.

VI. New Business

Review of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Draft Plan of Action

Staff recommended amending last year's Plan with one new goal: "7.2.6 Advocate the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity improve the Animal Inspection

process for travelers who have service dogs. (Priority 2)” This would allow DCAB to advocate for both physical improvements to the inspection station at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport and improvements to the process for travelers with service dogs at any airport. Committee member Gerald Ohta suggested amending Goal 7.1 to read: “When provided to the general public, public and private ground transportation systems in all counties will be fully accessible, as provided by law.”

The Committee adopted a motion to approve the proposed Plan of Action for 2026-2027 (M/S/P Spinola-Campbell/Ohta).

VII. Standing Agenda Topics

A. Public Transit and Paratransit

City and County of Honolulu’s low income rate for fixed route and paratransit.

Staff reported there are no proposed changes to these fare rates.

City and County of Honolulu’s Taxi Voucher Program

Staff reported that the City budget did not include funds for this pilot program, and the current administration seems uninterested. DCAB will continue to advocate for the program.

B. Streets and Highways

[Senate Bill 2851 Senate Draft 1 House Draft 1 Conference Draft 1](#) – Relating to Deaf Individuals. Authorizes deaf motor vehicle owners to register their vehicle as being owned by a deaf individual so that a deafness designation appears when a law enforcement officer accesses the motor vehicle's information. Effective 1/1/2027.

Staff stated this is awaiting action by the Governor and confirmed that the designation would be voluntary. Implementation will be the responsibility of the four (4) counties, which will have six (6) months to update their systems and processes. DCAB will offer training to enforcement agencies

C. Air Transportation/Airports

[Departmental Communication No. 129](#) – Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity’s Annual Report. Discussion on Goal 3: Enlarge and improve the Airport Animal Quarantine Holding Facility (AAQHF) at HNL

Staff reported that the Animal Inspection Station at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport is currently under construction for enlargement and improvement.

[Milwaukee Mitchell Airport launching ASL interpreting service](#)

Staff reported that this airport has launched a free app based service for travelers who need American Sign Language interpretation.

D. Update from the DCAB Standing Committee on Parking

[House Bill 469 House Draft 2 Senate Draft 2](#) – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to issue a disability travel placard to an applicant who has a valid removeable windshield placard and provides proof of travel.

Staff reported this bill is awaiting action by the Governor, and if it becomes law, administrative rulemaking will be required.

[Senate Bill 2366](#) – Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities. Amends the fee exemption period for individuals possessing a disabled paid parking exemption permit from the first 2.5 hours or the maximum amount of time the meter allows, whichever is longer, to the first 4.5 hours.

Staff reported this bill did not pass.

[House Bill 2442 House Draft 2/Senate Bill 2936 Senate Draft 1](#) - Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Beginning 7/1/27, increases the number of required accessible and van-accessible parking spaces in parking facilities with more than twenty-five parking spaces that are covered by title II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, with an exception for qualifying public entities managing large parking inventories that are otherwise compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Effective 7/1/3000.

Staff reported this bill did not pass.

[House Bill 1995/Senate Bill 2850](#) - Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities. Provides that people who are blind or deaf are eligible to apply for and receive a disabled paid parking permit.

Staff reported this bill did not pass.

VIII. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration on a future Committee agenda.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath commented she had an issue when trying to book a ticket to fly internationally. Certain airlines will not allow her to select a seat as part of the booking process. This is an important option for some passengers.

IX. The next meeting will be June 22, 2026, at noon.

X. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

BRYAN K. MICK